

Please declare invalid Sorenson's non-compete agreements. The agreements prohibit the interpreters from working for one year in any capacity for a competing VRS provider or entity contracting with a competing VRS provider. This creates a shortage of interpreters in the deaf community. This practice on the part of Sorenson communications is another example of several of their past and present socially irresponsible business practices that hurt the deaf and hard of hearing community (i.e.: setting up the VP100 to prevent VP 100 users from calling other VRS providers; programming their VP 100/200 and D-Link to prevent the D-Link and VP 100/200 to be able to connect via 10 digit registered phone numbers, forcing VP users to use the difficult to understand dynamic ip address or utilize the no-ip.com Update Client program in order to contact one that uses a different VP than the caller's, sending out scare tactic warnings via their VP100 after FCC ordered Sorenson Communications to enable the VP 100/200 users to reach other VRS providers that they are not responsible for the quality of the connections; not allowing the sales of the VP100/200 so that hearing people such as parents of deaf children, deaf parents of hearing children, hearing people with deaf relatives, interpreters, hearing professionals in the field can have point to point interactions via the VPs so that they are forced to use VRS, long speed of answer until FCC established SA requirements, etc.). This non-compete agreement adds to the shortage of interpreters for VRS providers who are then forced to seek interpreters in the community that have not worked for Sorenson Communications which in turn leads to a shortage of interpreters for free lance work in the deaf and hard of hearing community. The net result of all this is to increase the operating costs for all providers which will impact on the reimbursement rate set by FCC.